

CANINE SEARCH SPECIALIST

I. Functional Description

The Canine Search Specialist is primarily responsible for supporting the search function with the canine resource. He/she is also responsible for the care and welfare of the canine during mission deployment. The Canine Search Specialist reports to the Search Team Manager.

II. Description of Duties

The Canine Search Specialist is responsible for the following:

- Searching disaster environments and locations indicated in the mission assignment using appropriate canine search equipment and techniques
- Documenting results of the canine search, including locations of alerts and routing them appropriately
- Understanding and accurately interpreting canine behavior, including knowledge of the capabilities and limitations of search canines
- Care and welfare of his/her canine including assisting the medical team with the canine's medical care
- Performing additional tasks or duties as assigned

I. Position Requirements and Criteria

Individuals who meet the following requirements and criteria will be eligible to become Canine Search Specialists in the National US&R Response System. The intent of these requirements are to provide canine teams capable of using the search techniques and tactics required to support the search function with the canine resource in various disaster environments.

II. Required Training

The Canine Search Specialist shall adhere to the following:

- Meet all administrative and general training requirements
- Have current certification as a National US&R Response System Canine Search Specialist Team member
- Complete the National US&R Response System Canine Search Specialist Course
- Complete the National US&R Response System GPS Awareness Level Course

- Complete the required technical rescue skill sets and additional required rope rescue skills as defined in Appendix D at the end of this manual

III. Recommended Training

The Canine Search Specialist should complete the following:

- The National US&R Response System Technical Search Specialist Course
- The National US&R Response System GPS Operations Level Course
- A canine emergency field care course